

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02362 180935Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4874

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2362

NODIS

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS JULY 18

DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, SU, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: A. STATE 166492, B. KHARTOUM 2320

1. SUDANGOV PROBABLY WOULD SUPPORT 'FRIENDS OF CHAD' MEETING IN PARIS AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. NIMEIRI HAS HAD CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH MALLOUM REGIME IN CHAD. HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF REBEL SITUATION IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY. THERE IS FEELING LIBYA ULTIMATELY WOULD USE CHAD AS STAGING AREA TO ATTACK SUDAN AND THEREFORE PRESERVATION FRIENDLY REGIME IN NJDAMENA IS IMPORTANT. FOR THOSE REASONS, AS WELL AS URGING OF PRESIDENT SADAT, SUDANGOV PREPARED PROVIDE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR MALLOUM. WE UNDERSTAND SUDAN ALSO ATTEMPTING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN CERTAIN REBEL GROUPS AND CHAD GOVT.

2. SUDAN WOULD ALSO WELCOME US PARTICIPATION IN ANY EFFORT TO ASSIST CHAD. SUDANGOV BELIEVES USSR, ACTING THROUGH
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SUCH AGENTS AS LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA, IS ATTEMPTING DOMINATE AFRICA AND, AS HE DID AT OAU SUMMIT, NEIMEIRI HAS OFTEN WARNED AGAINST NEW SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA. THUS SUDANGOV WOULD WELCOME ANY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE USG IS AT LAST RESPONDING TO WHAT SUDANESE DEEM TO BE AN IMMEDIATE DANGER.

3. HOWEVER, SUDAN HAS BEEN VERY CAUTIOUS RE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN CHAD. AS INDICATED REF B, SUDANGOV IS NOT RPT NOT AT ALL ENTHUSIASTIC RE PROSPECTS CHAD'S UNDERTAKING SUCCESSFUL MILITARY SOLUTION TO ITS PROBLEMS AND SUDANESE LOATHE TO GET INVOLVED MILITARILY. FYI -- SUDAN HAS OTHER PRESSING MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AND IT UNLIKELY IT WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE MUCH MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, IF ANY. END FYI. SUDANGOV VIEW IS THAT CHAD GOVT SHOULD FIRST SETTLE WITH REBELS IN NORTHEASTERN PART OF COUNTRY AND, IN GENERAL, MEET LEGITIMATE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEMANDS OF CHAD'S NORTHERN TRIBES.

4. SUDANGOV MAY NOT BE VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT PARIS MEETING COULD ACHIEVE, BUT ON BALANCE WE THINK THEY WOULD BE WILLING SUPPORT IDEA. IN ANY CASE, SUDANGOV WOULD WANT TO CONSULT WITH EGYPT AND PERHAPS MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES BEFORE RESPONDING TO ANY INVITATION TO ATTEND "FRIENDS OF CHAD' MEETING IN PARIS. BERGUS

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